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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Nebraska Book Festival highlights new works

The 2009 Nebraska Book Festival, Nov. 14 at the Nebraska History Museum in downtown Lincoln, will highlight a few of Nebraska's many talented authors who published new works in 2009. Admission is free.

"New Works" will feature morning and afternoon talks by nine Nebraskans whose books were published in 2009. Confirmed authors include Harley Jane Kozak, Sean Doolittle, Mary Pipher, Hilda Raz, Ladette Randolph, J.V. Brummels, Allison Hedge Coke, Stephanie Grace Whitson and photographer Michael Forsberg.

Writers' workshops will offer opportunities for aspiring writers to discuss writing techniques and receive expert feedback from Kelly Madigan Erlandson and Harley Jane Kozak. Both workshops are free, but seating is limited to 25 people per workshop. Advance registration is recommended and available online.

At 10 a.m., members of the Loren Eiseley Society will share excerpts from the new "Eiseley Reader," which includes Eiseley's most popular essays and a forward by Ray Bradbury.

The 11:30 a.m. awards luncheon at Chez Hay, 210 N. 14th St., will honor winners of the Nebraska Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett, Jane Geske and Nebraska Book awards. The two-hour luncheon will culminate with readings by Nebraska Book Award winners, which may include Ron Hansen, Stew Magnuson, Keith Terry and James Magorian. Luncheon tickets are \$12 each. Order forms are available online.

After lunch, the festival will move back to the Nebraska History Museum for more free sessions with Nebraska writers. Book sales, book signings and vendor exhibits will be available throughout the day.

At 2 p.m., Ted Kooser, William Kloefkorn, Don Welch and the audience will discuss insights on reading and writing poetry. The three will talk about how they support each other's work as a writing community through publication, reading, teaching and friendship.

At 4 p.m., Teresa Lorensen, director of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, will lead a discussion of Aldrich's "A Lantern in Her Hand," the 2009 One Book One Nebraska selection.

The festival ends with 6 p.m. readings by invited authors at núVibe Juice & Java, 126 N. 14th St., and an open mike starting at 8 p.m.

Visit www.nebraskabookfestival.org to learn more about the festival, to register for writers' workshops or to purchase luncheon tickets. For more information, contact Mary Jo Ryan, festival director, at (402) 471-3434 or (800) 307-2665.

The Nebraska Book Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska State Historical Society, with additional support from Duncan Family Trust, Lee Booksellers, University of Nebraska Press, Woods Charitable Fund, Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment.